

the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 377.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF DESMOND MPILO TUTU

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 34) recognizing the 75th birthday of Desmond Mpilo Tutu, South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 34

Whereas Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu has been recognized as one of the 20th century's leaders for freedom, justice, and human rights for all;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu, as a religious leader and Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches from 1976 until 1978, worked against apartheid in South Africa with the agreement of nearly all South African churches;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu consistently advocated reconciliation between all parties involved in apartheid and, though he was most firm in denouncing South Africa's white-ruled government, Archbishop Tutu was also harsh in his criticism of the violent tactics of some anti-apartheid groups and denounced terrorism;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu spoke strongly in support of non-violent change and economic sanctions against South Africa and as a result had his passport revoked by the South African Government;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu led a historical march to a whites-only beach, where he and supporters were chased off with whips;

Whereas, on October 16, 1984, Archbishop Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his outstanding leadership, courage, heroism, and use of nonviolence in the struggle against apartheid, and the Nobel Committee cited his "role as a unifying leader figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa";

Whereas a month after winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Archbishop Tutu was elected as the first black Anglican bishop of Johannesburg;

Whereas, on September 7, 1986, Archbishop Tutu became the first black person to lead the Anglican Church in South Africa;

Whereas, in 1994, after the end of apartheid and the election of President Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Tutu was appointed as Chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to investigate apartheid-era crimes, where his policy of forgiveness and reconciliation has become an international example of conflict resolution, and a trusted method of post-conflict reconstruction;

Whereas, on October 7, 1931, Archbishop Tutu was born in Klerksdorp, Transvaal, to a school teacher and an uneducated mother and was educated at Johannesburg Bantu High School;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu trained as a high school teacher at Pretoria Bantu Normal College and graduated from the University of South Africa in 1954, and after teaching for three years was ordained as a priest in 1960;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu studied theology in England in 1962, received a Masters of Theology from University of London in 1966, was appointed as the first black South African to hold the position of Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg in 1975, and became the first black General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches in 1978;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu is an international lecturer and philosopher and has received honorary doctorates from ten leading universities in the United States, Britain, and Germany;

Whereas Archbishop Tutu has been awarded a number of prestigious awards, including the Order for Meritorious Award (Gold), the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion, the Prix d'Athene, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award of Annual Black American Heroes and Heroines Day;

Whereas out of deep concern for the challenges facing all of the people of the world, in July 2007 Archbishop Tutu helped assemble The Elders, an historic group of world leaders seeking to contribute their wisdom, independent leadership, and integrity in tackling some of the world's toughest problems;

Whereas October 7, 2007, will mark the 76th birthday of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu; and

Whereas Archbishop Tutu has fought for a democratic and just society without racial divisions, a common system of education, a world which promotes the rights and opportunities of the marginalized, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised, and continues to pursue an active international ministry of peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the accomplishments of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu;

(2) recognizes and congratulates his consistent efforts to promote dialogue to peacefully resolve conflicts between people in Africa and around the world; and

(3) extols the contributions of Archbishop Tutu to South Africa, the United States, and the international community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, again I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like again to thank our distinguished chairman of

the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and our senior ranking member of the committee, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for their support in bringing this legislation to the floor.

I would particularly like to thank my distinguished colleague, the chief sponsor of this legislation, the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for introducing this important resolution to honor Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa for his lifetime of human rights work.

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Tutu is unquestionably one of the most important and accomplished advocates of human rights and peace on the face of this planet. In the past few years, Bishop Tutu has worked tirelessly to promote religious freedom and self-sovereignty around the world, using his reputation and his work in South Africa as a launching pad to do good. For instance, he has worked to highlight the horrendous human rights situation in Burma and repeatedly called on the Burmese Government to free the champion of democracy there, Aung San Suu Kyi.

But of all his work for humankind, he is perhaps best known for chairing the South Africa Peace and Reconciliation Commission after the scourge of apartheid ended in that nation.

Under the rule of the Afrikaner Nationalist Party, black South Africans were subjected to unspeakable dehumanizing social policies and draconian laws. These terrible measures separated families, denied a decent education to millions of children, and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes into segregated territories, or bantustans.

Given the nature of the oppression, South Africa could have been a country washed in blood by black Africans seeking revenge once white minority rule ended. But through his characteristic patience and wisdom, Bishop Tutu helped guide South Africans, black, brown and white, through a national process of reconciliation, a forum where the horrors of apartheid were told by both victims and perpetrators. And most importantly, there was no retribution, only truth and reconciliation.

Bishop Tutu and his colleagues traveled throughout South Africa, from village to village, and allowed apartheid's victims to speak as long as they needed to tell their stories. For days at a time he sat and listened to stories of the hellish nightmare innocent victims of apartheid had to endure.

The process of simply telling proved an enormous healing experience for individuals in the South African nation. And the stories have been archived so that South Africans in the future can know their past and can appreciate their present.

This effort, and his spiritual leadership throughout the trying times of his nation made Bishop Tutu an international hero. He is a human rights

champion and has been the winner of numerous awards, including the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Bishop Tutu's 76th birthday next month, we should be mindful of the lessons he has brought in his service to mankind, particularly in this troubling time when human rights violations are still so widespread around the world.

As he said famously in his Nobel Peace acceptance speech, "Oppression dehumanizes the oppressor as much as, if not more, the oppressed."

That axiom, to me, Madam Speaker, is a profound admonition to tyrants around the world.

And I cannot help, Madam Speaker, but to say that if you say something about Bishop Tutu, you have to add his colleague, Nelson Mandela. Now here was a man that was in prison for 29 years, almost 30 years. And you would think that there is nothing on his mind than to seek vengeance and retribution against what the apartheid government did to him for all those years, but instead, as far as I'm concerned, the most Christ-like person that has ever come out of that prison, Mr. Mandela, and for the leadership that he displayed in bringing all different factions, nationalities and ethnicities in South Africa together to build a good nation.

I remember years ago, Madam Speaker, the World Cup. I don't know if my colleagues are familiar with the sport of rugby, but the World Cup rugby tournament is on in France right now. Years ago, the all-black rugby national team representing New Zealand had a very difficult time playing against the Spring Boks from South Africa, especially if they had an Amari Polynesian or a Samoan Polynesian as a member of that all-blacks team. The Spring Boks of South Africa refused to play the all-blacks of New Zealand simply because there are two people of color that are members of the team representing New Zealand. They got the two countries pretty heated at times. There was no question about the bigotry and the racism that existed at that time as far as apartheid is concerned.

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Madam Speaker, today we honor Bishop Desmond Tutu and all that he represents, and I call on my colleagues to vote to support this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today also in support of House Resolution 34, which honors the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa; and an outspoken advocate for peace, equality, and human rights around the globe.

While Archbishop Tutu is regarded by some as a controversial figure, he is universally recognized as a hero in the

struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa. There he served as a beacon of hope, committed to peace and unity in an era marked by violence and oppression. He passionately advocated for nonviolent opposition to the racist apartheid regime while campaigning internationally for the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa.

And even in the face of the most egregious human rights abuses reinforced by draconian laws, including the Population Registration Act of 1950, the Group Areas Act of 1950, the Lands Act of 1954 and 1955, and the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act of 1970, he inspired disenfranchised South Africans to believe that one day justice would prevail and freedom would come.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank my colleague and dear friend from Florida for her statement in support of this resolution.

At this time, Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I yield 5 minutes to my good friend, the chief sponsor of this proposed bill, the gentlewoman from Texas, senior member of the Judiciary Committee and also a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me, first of all, thank my distinguished colleague, the manager of the bill and a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman FALEOMAVAEGA, for the very kind words that he has offered; and to the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her supporting words; and chiefly two very important persons who have assisted in this legislation, Chairman LANTOS for his support and the very excellent committee staff that have supported us, along with our dear subcommittee Chair, DONALD PAYNE, who is renowned for his commitment to Africa, and certainly we appreciate his friendship and support of this legislation.

Might I acknowledge the cosponsors who were eager to join to recognize this distinguished but bountiful with words and compassion in his small package of a man but yet his gigantic heart, mind, and spirit, Bishop Mpilo Tutu, who, as you can see, is a man that commands thousands for his vision.

We are proud to be able to, nearing the 76th birthday, acknowledge his 75th birthday and his 75th year. So might I also express appreciation for my staff, Yahannus Tsahani and Nina Besser, for their help in this legislation.

Let me say to you, Madam Speaker, that Archbishop Tutu was not lost with words or passion. He said, "I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I

want the full menu of rights." He is a man of immense courage and vision. He has long served as the moral voice of the oppressed populations. No one who has ever met, spoken to, or worked with Archbishop Tutu is the same afterwards.

He is, of course, linked with Father Mandela, arm in arm as Father Mandela maintained his life and his integrity for 29 years. It was Bishop Tutu who had a voice, steering the religious and faith community away from its closed attitude to open to the Beatitudes, that, in fact, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Bishop Tutu believed in that.

As a tireless advocate for ending discrimination, Desmond Tutu's career is truly extraordinary. In 1975 he became the first black African Dean of Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg, South Africa. From 1976 to 1978, he served as the Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches, once again being the first black African to do so. He went on to head South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1996 to 1998, investigating prior apartheid-related crimes.

It would be interesting if we were at that point in Iraq, but we must set the picture of what it means to bring together a commission that addresses the pain and hurt, brutality and devastation of black Africans, South Africans, at the hands of apartheid. It was not easy. It would have been better to sit in accusatory fashion, point fingers, and never resolve. But it was the calm demeanor, the spirit, the religious faith of Bishop Tutu that allowed this process to go forward and to allow it to go forward as others have now looked back and said, well done, well done.

Archbishop Tutu is perhaps best known for his courageous opposition to the internationally condemned apartheid regime that persisted in his homeland until democratic elections were finally held in 1994. It was for his nonviolent struggle in opposition to apartheid that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 in recognition of his courage, heroism, and peaceful methods. The Nobel committee called him a "unifying leader-figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa." The committee went on to state, "the means by which this campaign is conducted is of vital importance for the whole of the continent of Africa and for the cause of peace in the world." In a press release discussing the award, the Nobel committee wrote, "This year's award should be seen as a renewed recognition of the courage and heroism shown by black South Africans in their use of peaceful methods in the struggle against apartheid."

How wonderful it would be if the conflicts around the world and in the Middle East would follow this straight and narrow path of a peaceful opposition.

"This recognition is also directed to all who throughout the world use such methods to stand in the vanguard of

the campaign for racial equality as a human right."

In recognition of his vast intellectual ability, Desmond Tutu has received numerous honorary doctorates from several universities, including Harvard, Kent, Columbia, Aberdeen, and Howard. Let me also indicate as well that he has won the Order of Meritorious Gold Award; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize; and a number of others.

He has also been a survivor of cancer. He is someone who has never stopped teaching, working, and understanding.

And for those of us who are products of America's civil rights movement, I thought would be appropriate to bring to light and to attention the reflection of two giants: Rosa Parks and Archbishop Tutu, to bring together the trials and tribulations, the struggles of African Americans in the United States with someone who fully understood what struggle was all about.

I am delighted to join with my colleagues asking for your full support in honoring Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, a man who stood between the schism of two oceans, bringing America and Africa together through the idea of unity, peace, generosity, justice, and opportunity for all.

Congratulations, Bishop Tutu. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 34, which honors the life and accomplishments of Desmond Mpilo Tutu, South African Archbishop of Cape Town and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. I have been pleased to work with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on this important legislation, and I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS for his support for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Tutu once stated, "I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights." He is a man of immense courage and vision, and he has long served as the moral voice of oppressed populations. No one who has ever met, spoken to, or worked with Archbishop Tutu is the same afterwards.

As a tireless advocate of ending discrimination, Desmond Tutu's career is truly extraordinary. In 1975, he became the first black African Dean of Mary's Cathedral, in Johannesburg, South Africa. From 1976–1978, he served as the Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches; once again, being the first black African to do so. He went on to head South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 1996–1998, investigating prior apartheid related crimes.

Archbishop Tutu is perhaps best known for his courageous opposition to the internationally-condemned apartheid regime that persisted in his homeland until democratic elections were finally held in 1994. It was for his non-violent struggle in opposition to apartheid that he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, in recognition of his courage, heroism, and peaceful methods. The Nobel committee called him a "unifying leader-figure in the campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa." The committee went on to

state, "the means by which this campaign is conducted is of vital importance for the whole of the continent of Africa and for the cause of peace in the world." In a press release discussing the award, the Nobel committee wrote, "This year's award should be seen as a renewed recognition of the courage and heroism shown by black South Africans in their use of peaceful methods in the struggle against apartheid. This recognition is also directed to all who, throughout the world, use such methods to stand in the vanguard of the campaign for racial equality as a human right."

In recognition of his vast intellectual ability, Desmond Tutu has received numerous honorary doctorates from several universities including Harvard, Kent, Colombia, Aberdeen, and Howard. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Archbishop Tutu has received numerous other prestigious awards, including the Order of Meritorious Gold Award, Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion, Prix d'Athene, Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, Maguebela Prize for Liberty, as well as the International Gandhi Peace Prize.

Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu will celebrate his 76th birthday on October 7, 2007. This legislation recognizes this important date, honors his accomplishments, and extols the contributions that he has made to South Africa, the United States, and to the international community.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of this truly extraordinary man. I conclude with another quote from Archbishop Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." Archbishop Tutu has spent his life in defense of the mouse, and his work has proven that, with proper pressure and leverage, the elephant can be forced to move.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In recognition of his efforts to peacefully protest an immoral and unjust system while leading some 20 million South Africans toward freedom, Desmond Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. In presenting the award, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee recognized that the repression of the apartheid regime was so brutal that "a violent rebellion would be an understandable reaction." However, he stated, that on a broad front a campaign that is being fought with the weapons of spirit and reason, a campaign for truth, freedom, and justice, the contribution that Desmond Tutu has made and is still making represents a hope for the future. He is an exponent of the only form of conflict solving which is worthy of civilized nations.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield 5 minutes to my good friend and senior member of our Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, let me thank Mr. LANTOS and Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and the floor manager, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for bringing this resolution forward, but certainly to the sponsor, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, for her outstanding work that she does on the Africa Subcommittee.

I rise to speak in support of H. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 75th birthday of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Archbishop Tutu will celebrate his 76th birthday on October 7 of this year, and the legacy he has created during three-quarters of a century on this Earth is truly inspiring.

It is no exaggeration to say that without his courage, commitment, and leadership, the South Africa we know today may not exist. For over four decades, Bishop Tutu was a vocal advocate and activist for democracy and human rights in South Africa. He defended the rights of not only black South Africans but for brown and white South Africans as well. As I mentioned earlier, Senator LUGAR gave the deciding vote to override the veto of President Reagan of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, which therefore put sanctions on South Africa, which helped to move towards a free, democratic South Africa, nonracial.

Archbishop Tutu's support for regime change through reconciliation between the different ethnic groups in South Africa is well known and I believe should serve as a model not only in Africa but in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

And I believe that his work as chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped prevent open violence and bloodshed in South Africa in the wake of apartheid following it. Truly Archbishop Tutu practiced what he preached.

What amazes me about Bishop Tutu is his tireless effort on behalf of those who are disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and disposed. Many men would have taken a rest after seeing a vision they worked so hard to achieve come to fruition. But not him. Not Bishop Tutu. He continues to advocate for people around the world from West Papua to Zimbabwe.

He has led efforts to bring attention to the spread of HIV/AIDS and the dangers of extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis, XDR. As a matter of fact, Bishop Tutu wrote me a letter in February bringing out the fact that 50 people of 53 in South Africa died from this disease, and I had a hearing long before the person of the United States traveled around the world with this XDR, drug-resistant, TB. So it was Bishop Tutu that brought it to my attention. As a matter of fact, we raised it with the Foreign Operations appropriations committee, and we were able to increase the funding for this disease by \$50 million in this year's appropriations bill. The MDR- and the XDR-TB are things where it was Bishop Tutu who brought it to our attention.

His latest endeavor will be to serve as chairman of the Council of Elders, a

group formed by the former South African President Nelson Mandela this past July. Bishop Tutu worked with Reverend Allan Boesak years ago and Mr. Oliver Tambo, who was chairman of the ANC.

Archbishop Tutu's tireless work on behalf of the people of South Africa and, indeed, the world is awe inspiring.

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He should serve as an example to all of us of what compassion and commitment can achieve. I congratulate him on his life work and salute him on the occasion of his birthday.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Following the dismantling of the apartheid regime and the conduct of South Africa's first democratically contested multi-party elections in 1994, Archbishop Tutu was appointed to share South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Tasked with investigating the gross human rights violations that had occurred over the preceding 34 years, it was feared that the TRC would reopen old wounds and once again plunge the country into crisis. However, Archbishop Tutu used this platform to urge forgiveness and reconciliation rather than revenge for past injustices. It, therefore, comes as no surprise that South Africa's TRC now serves as a model for post-conflict resolutions around the globe. And at nearly 76 years of age, Archbishop Tutu has not slowed down a bit. Given his continued advocacy for peace and human rights in Africa and beyond, it is appropriate that this body honor him again today.

I would like to thank the sponsor, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for introducing this important resolution and for agreeing to changes so that it reflects a celebration of his upcoming 76th birthday, which will be celebrated by all of us on October 7.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to bring House Resolution 34 to the floor today. And I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on its passage.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on this proposed bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 34, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution recognizing the life and accomplishments of Desmond Mpilo Tutu, South African Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE STRONG SECURITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 508) recognizing the strong security alliance between the Government of Japan and the United States and expressing appreciation to Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region and its efforts in the global war against terrorism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 508

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of United States security interests in Asia and the Pacific and is fundamental to regional stability and prosperity;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance continues to be based on shared vital interests and values in the Asia-Pacific region, despite the changes in the post-cold war strategic landscape, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, support for human rights and democratic institutions, and securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community;

Whereas on April 27, 2007, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to Washington, President Bush and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to these common strategic objectives;

Whereas Japan provides military bases and generous financial and material support to United States forward-deployed forces, which are essential for maintaining stability in the region;

Whereas under the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, Japan hosts a carrier battle group, the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the 5th Air Force;

Whereas the United States currently maintains approximately 50,000 troops in Japan, about half of whom are stationed in Okinawa;

Whereas over the past decade the alliance has been strengthened through revised Defense Guidelines (which expand Japan's non-combat role in a regional contingency) and the continued renewal of Japan's Host Nation Support of United States forces stationed in Japan;

Whereas in 2005, the two allies agreed on a redefinition of roles, missions, and capabilities of alliance forces, which further deepens interoperability and coordination between the Japanese Self Defense Forces (SDF) and United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the agreement also provided for reducing the number of troops stationed in Okinawa and broadening our cooperation in the area of ballistic missile defense (BMD);

Whereas in May 2007, the United States and Japan confirmed that, as both countries develop and deploy capabilities, every effort must be made to ensure tactical, operational, and strategic coordination, including ballistic missile threats against alliance interests;

Whereas after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Japan has participated significantly in international efforts to combat

terrorism by providing major logistical support for United States and coalition forces in the Indian Ocean in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas Japan has also provided troops, aircraft, and logistical support for Operation Iraqi Freedom, a commitment which the Japanese Government recently renewed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that Japan is one of the most reliable security partners of the United States;

(2) commends the Government of Japan for its role in enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific Region; and

(3) expresses appreciation to the Government of Japan for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this proposed bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to the leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the distinguished chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and our distinguished ranking member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN from Florida, for their support of this proposed bill.

And let me also thank our distinguished colleague from the great State of New Jersey, a senior member of the Armed Services Committee as well as the Natural Resources Committee, my good friend, Mr. SAXTON, for his sponsorship of this resolution.

When World War II came to a close, the relationship between the United States and Japan could not have been worse. Both sides sustained heavy human losses at the hands of the other's military, but together, starting in the late 1940s, the United States and the Japanese people rebuilt a war-torn Japanese nation brick by brick, industry by industry. The alliance between the United States and Japan has grown steadily since then, and now it could hardly be stronger.

Japan today is one of our closest allies in the Asia-Pacific region. The strong and enduring partnership we developed when that war thankfully came to an end bridges economic, military and political realms. Our military alliance helped prevent another world conflict during the Cold War, and our two nations jointly held fast to the